BROWNING®

The Best There Is.

OWNER'S MANUAL

VERY IMPORTANT:

Save This Booklet. Carefully read this entire manual before using your new Browning firearm.

LIGHTNING BLR

LEVER ACTION RIFLE

NEW GUN OWNERS RECORD

KEEP THIS RECORD FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

Browning Model _____

Serial Number _____

Gauge / Caliber _____

Purchase Price _____

Purchased From _____

Date of Purchase _____

Thank you for choosing a Browning Lightning BLR Lever Action Rifle.

The Lightning BLR is the most modern design of any lever action rifle with an advanced rack-and-pinion lever system and strong rotary bolt locking design. And with its detachable box magazine, you can safely shoot ballistically superior pointed bullets. The Lightning BLR incorporates Browning's traditional quality and craftsmanship, coupled with the finest materials and modern manufacturing methods.

With a reasonable amount of care, your Lightning BLR should give you many years of dependable, enjoyable service. Please, feel free to write us immediately if you have any observations regarding its performance and operation.

BROWNING®

One Browning Place, Morgan, Utah 84050-9326
Distributed in Canada by Browning Canada Sports Ltd./Ltee, 5617 Chemin St-François, St-Laurent, Quebec H4S 1W6
Printed in USA KP950400/95009

LIGHTNING BLR LEVER ACTION RIFLE

You Are Responsible For Firearms Safety

As a gun owner, you accept a set of responsibilities of the most demanding nature. How seriously you carry out these responsibilities can mean the difference between life and death.

There is no excuse for careless or abusive handling of any firearm. At all times handle this rifle with intense respect for its power and potential danger.

READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE CAUTIONS, PROPER HANDLING PROCEDURES AND INSTRUCTIONS OUTLINED IN THIS BOOKLET BEFORE USING YOUR NEW FIREARM.

1. ***ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE OF YOUR RIFLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION.***

   Do this even though you are certain the gun is unloaded. Never point any firearm at anything you do not intend to shoot. Be extremely alert and aware of all persons and property within the range of your ammunition.

2. ***THIS RIFLE'S HALF-COCK NOTCH IS SIMPLY A HAMMER POSITION THAT MAY CATCH A HAMMER THAT SLIPS FROM YOUR THUMB WHILE COCKING (PROVIDING THE TRIGGER IS NOT DEPRESSED).*** It should not be taken as an assurance it will be caught all the time. You should never trust the half-cock hammer position to function as a safety. An excessive, abusive pull on the trigger could still cause the hammer to fall. Also, while the half-cock notch may frequently catch a hammer that slips from your thumb while cocking the rifle (provided the trigger is not depressed), the half-cock notch is NOT a safety and should not be relied upon to always catch the hammer. No guarantee can be made that the half-cock notch will prevent the hammer from striking the firing pin.

   When the hammer is in the full cocked position, the inertia firing pin is positioned to the rear until it is struck by a forcible blow from the forward motion of the hammer.

3. ***THE FOLDED-HAMMER POSITION OF THE HAMMER IS ONLY AN EXTRA MEASURE OF SAFETY.*** It is designed to put your rifle in a ***SAFER*** status. However, like any mechanical device, it can sometimes be jarred or unintentionally manipulated into an unsafe condition.

   Safe gun handling does not stop with the folded hammer position of your rifle. This is an aid to safe gun handling and is no excuse for pointing the muzzle in an unsafe direction.

   ALWAYS TREAT YOUR RIFLE AS THOUGH IT WERE LOADED AND READY TO FIRE.

4. ***ALWAYS KEEP YOUR LIGHTNING BLR IN THE FOLDED HAMMER POSITION AND YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER, EVEN IF YOU ARE CERTAIN THE RIFLE IS UNLOADED.***

   Chamber a round only when preparing for a situation where shooting is imminent. When you place a round in the chamber, immediately make sure the hammer is in the half-cock position with the tip of the hammer folded forward. The preferred carrying and storage status for the Lightning BLR is with the chamber empty and with the hammer in the half-cock position *and* with the tip of the hammer folded forward.

5. ***WHENEVER YOU HANDLE A FIREARM, OR HAND IT TO SOMEONE, ALWAYS OPEN THE ACTION IMMEDIATELY, VISUALLY CHECK YOUR FIREARM'S CHAMBER, FEED MECHANISM AND MAGAZINE.***

   Make certain that they do not inadvertently contain any ammunition. Always keep the chamber empty and the hammer in the half-cock position with the hammer folded forward unless shooting is imminent.

   WARNING: WHEN YOU ENGAGE THE FOLD-DOWN HAMMER, KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER.

6. ***DO NOT TRANSPORT YOUR FIREARM LOADED, WHETHER IN A SCABBARD, GUN CASE, OR OTHER CONTAINER.***

7. ***HUNTING FROM ELEVATED SURFACES SUCH AS TREE STANDS IS DANGEROUS.***

   Doing so may increase the risk of mishandling a firearm. You and those you hunt with, should be sure to observe

the following rules: always make certain that the stand being used is safe and stable; always make certain that your firearm is unloaded when it is being taken up and down from the stand; always make certain that your firearm is not dropped from the stand, or dropped while it is being taken up or down from the stand. Remember, even with the hammer in the half-cock position and the hammer folded forward, a loaded firearm may discharge when dropped.

8. ***BEWARE OF BARREL OBSTRUCTIONS.***
Do this for the safety of both your gun and yourself. Mud, snow, and an infinite variety of other objects may lodge in a barrel bore. It takes only one small obstruction to cause dangerously increased pressures that can ruin (swell or rupture) the finest barrel.

BEFORE CHECKING FOR A BARREL OBSTRUCTION, LOWER THE LEVER TO OPEN THE ACTION. THEN, CHECK THAT NO LIVE ROUND IS IN THE CHAMBER AND THAT THE MAGAZINE AND FEED MECHANISMS ARE COMPLETELY EMPTY.

After assuring yourself that the firearm is completely empty, and with the action open, look through the barrel to be sure it is clear of any obstruction. If an obstruction is seen, no matter how small it may be, clean the bore with a cleaning rod and patch as described in "Cleaning Suggestions" later in this manual.

Before the first firing, clean the bore with a cleaning rod and patch, and wipe away any anti-rust compounds in the action/chamber areas.

9. ***ALWAYS UNLOAD YOUR FIREARM WHEN NOT IN USE.***

Your responsibilities do not end when your firearm is unattended. Store your gun and ammunition separately — well beyond the reach of children. Take all precautions to ensure that your gun does not get into untrained, inexperienced or unwelcome hands.

10. ***USE THE PROPER AMMUNITION.***

The Browning Lightning BLR is available in many different calibers. It is important to use the correct ammunition for your particular rifle. The proper caliber for your Lightning BLR is inscribed on the right side of the barrel.

You can safely shoot ballistically superior pointed bullets, since the Lightning BLR has a box magazine and not a tubular one.

The barrel and action of this rifle have been made with substantial safety margins over the pressures developed by established American commercial loads. However, Browning assumes no liability for accidents which occur through the use of cartridges that have nonstandard dimensions or that develop pressures in excess of the commercially available ammunition that has been loaded in accordance with industry standards established by SAAMI (Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute).

BE ALERT TO THE SIGNS OF AMMUNITION MALFUNCTION.

If you detect an off sound or light recoil when a cartridge is fired, fully unload your firearm's chamber, feed mechanism, and magazine. With the action open, glance down the barrel to make sure that an obstruction does not remain in the barrel. Completely clear the barrel before loading and firing again.

11. ***MAKE SURE OF ADEQUATE VENTILATION IN THE AREA THAT YOU DISCHARGE A FIREARM. WASH HANDS THOROUGHLY AFTER EXPOSURE TO AMMUNITION OR CLEANING A FIREARM.***

Lead exposure can be obtained from discharging firearms in poorly ventilated areas, cleaning firearms or handling ammunition. Lead is a substance that has been known to cause birth defects, reproductive harm and other serious injury.

12. ***DO NOT SNAP THE FIRING PIN ON AN EMPTY CHAMBER —THE CHAMBER MAY NOT BE EMPTY!***

Treat every gun with the respect you give a loaded gun, even when you are certain the gun is unloaded.

13. ***KEEP YOUR FINGERS AWAY FROM THE TRIGGER WHILE LOADING AND UNLOADING, UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SHOOT.***

14. ***AVOID UNORTHODOX AIMING STANCES.***
When a round is cycled, the rear end of the bolt could strike a shooter in the face and cause injury, with your head placed too far forward on the stock. Conform to standard shooting styles.

15. ***BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND BACKSTOP.***
Particularly when there's not much light and visibility is poor. Know the range of your ammunition. Never shoot at water or hard objects.

16. ***ALWAYS UNLOAD YOUR FIREARM'S CHAMBER BEFORE CROSSING A FENCE, CLIMBING A TREE, JUMPING A DITCH OR NEGOTIATING OTHER OBSTACLES.***

Refer to page 10 of this instruction booklet for instructions on unloading your firearm. Never place any firearm on or against a fence, tree, car, or other similar objects.

17. ***WEAR EYE AND EAR PROTECTION WHEN SHOOTING.***

Unprotected, repeated exposure to the sound of gunfire can cause hearing damage. Wear ear protectors (shooting ear plugs or muffs) to guard against such damage. Wear shooting glasses to protect your eyes from flying particles. Allow proper distance (eye relief) between the scope and your eye when firing a scoped firearm. Always keep a safe distance between the muzzle of your firearm and any persons nearby, as muzzle blast, debris and ejecting shells could inflict serious injury. Also, wear eye protection when disassembling and cleaning your gun to keep springs, spring-tensioned parts, solvents or other agents from coming in contact with your eyes.

18. ***DROPPING A LOADED GUN CAN CAUSE IT TO ACCIDENTALLY DISCHARGE.***

This can occur even with the hammer in the half-cock position with the hammer folded forward.

19. ***IF YOUR FIREARM FAILS TO FIRE, KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION.***

Hold this position for a minimum of 30 seconds. Carefully open the action and remove the cartridge. If the primer is indented, the cartridge should be disposed of in a way that cannot cause harm. If the primer is not indented, your firearm should be examined by a qualified gunsmith and the cause of the malfunction should be corrected before further use.

20. ***BE DEFENSIVE AND ON GUARD AGAINST UNSAFE GUN HANDLING AROUND YOU AND AROUND OTHERS.***

Don't be timid when it comes to gun safety. If you observe other shooters violating any of these safety precautions, politely suggest safer handling practices.

21. ***BE CERTAIN YOUR FIREARM IS UNLOADED BEFORE CLEANING.***

Because so many gun accidents occur when a firearm is being cleaned, special and extreme care should be taken to be sure your gun is completely unloaded before disassembly, cleaning and reassembly. Keep ammunition away from the cleaning location. Never test the mechanical function of any firearm with live ammunition.

22. ***EDUCATE AND SUPERVISE FIREARMS SAFETY TO ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY— ESPECIALLY TO CHILDREN AND NONSHOOTERS.***

Closely supervise newcomers to the shooting sports. Encourage enrollment in hunting/shooting safety courses.

23. ***NEVER DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR TAKE ANY TYPE OF DRUGS BEFORE OR DURING SHOOTING.***

Your vision and judgment could be dangerously impaired, making your gun handling unsafe for you and for others.

24. ***READ AND HEED ALL WARNINGS,*** in this instruction book, on ammunition boxes and with all accessories that you install on your firearm. It is your responsibility to secure the most up-to-date information on the safe handling procedures of your Browning firearm. Browning assumes no liability for incidents which occur when unsafe or improper gun accessories or ammunition combinations are used.

25. ***PERIODIC MAINTENANCE — AVOID UNAUTHORIZED SERVICING.***

Your gun is a mechanical device which will not last forever, and as such, is subject to wear and requires periodic inspection, adjustment, and service. Browning firearms should be serviced by a Browning Recommended Service Center or by Browning's service facility in Arnold, Missouri. Browning cannot assume any responsibility for injuries suffered because of unauthorized servicing, alterations or modifications of Browning firearms.

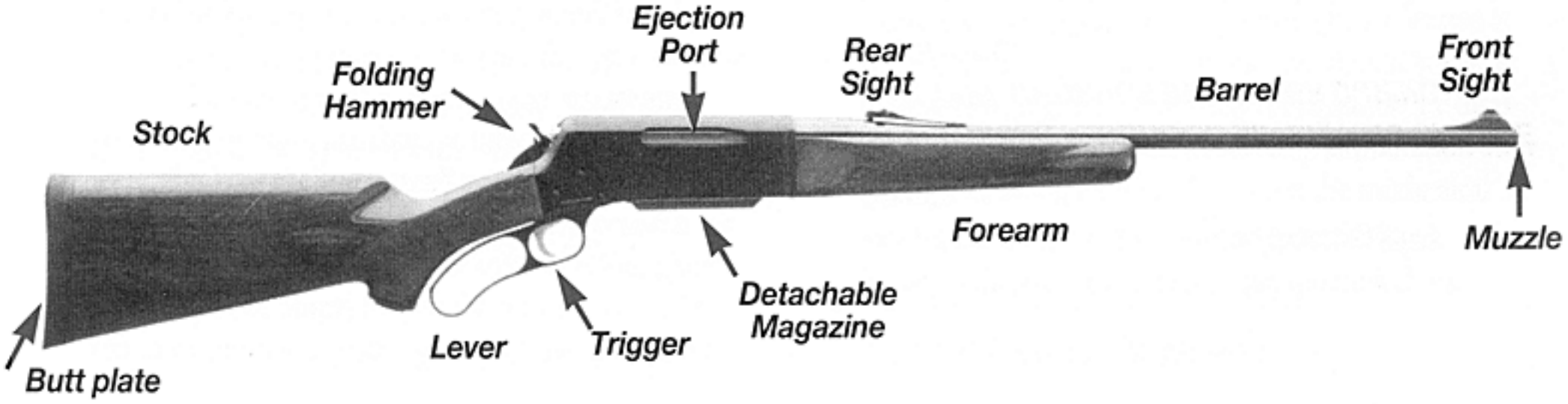
26. BROWNING RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE SERVICE ON FIREARMS THAT HAVE BEEN ALTERED, ADDED TO OR SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGED.

Removal of metal from barrel(s), or modifications of the firing mechanism and/or operating parts may lead to Browning's refusal of service on such firearms. Browning will charge the owner for parts and labor to return the firearm to original Browning specifications.

DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, ALTER THE TRIGGER OR PARTS OF THE FIRING MECHANISM OF THIS OR ANY OTHER FIREARM. FAILURE TO OBEY THIS WARNING MAY RESULT IN INJURY OR DEATH TO YOURSELF OR OTHERS.

BE CAREFUL

Figure 1



Browning Nomenclature

In conventional gun terminology the position and movement of gun parts are described as they occur with the gun horizontal and in normal firing position. The muzzle is forward or front, the butt stock is rearward or rear, the trigger is downward or underneath, and the sights are upward or on top. When the lever is closed or parallel to the stock grip the bolt is "closed" or "locked"; when the lever is down the bolt is "open" or "unlocked."

For general nomenclature, refer to Figure 1.

Serial Number

The serial number of your rifle can be found on the right side of the receiver, toward the rear.

Initial Cleaning

BEFORE THE FIRST FIRING, CLEAN THE ANTI-RUST COMPOUND, from the barrel and the inside of the receiver with a clean rag (as much as is possible without disassembling the receiver). Use a light gun oil such as Browning Oil. See "Cleaning Suggestions" on page 12.

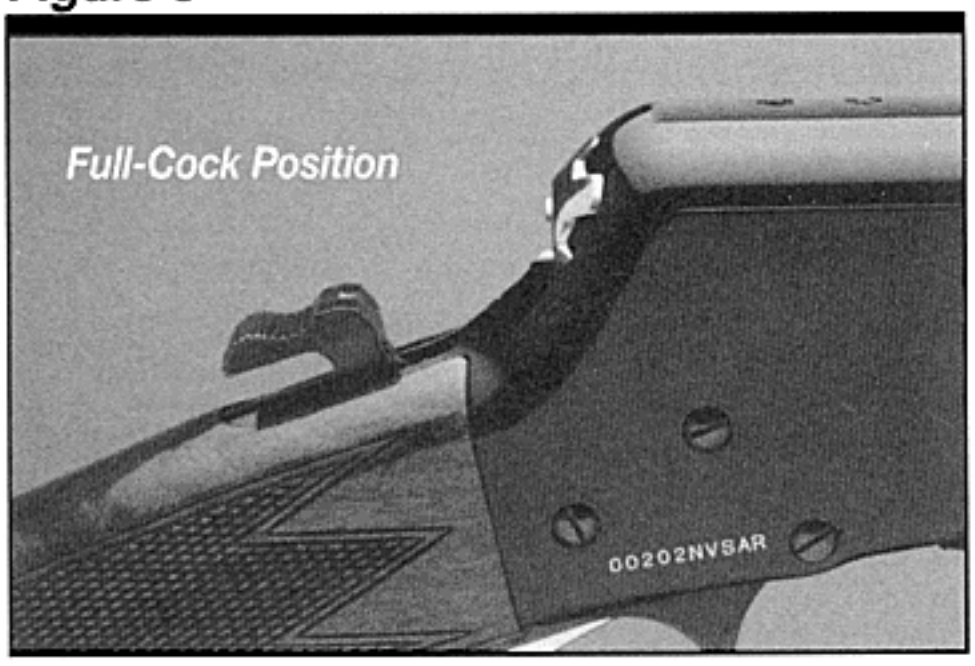
Cartridge Capacity

SHORT ACTION CALIBERS —

One (1) in the chamber, four (4) in the magazine. Except, 284 Win. which holds three (3) in the magazine and 223 Rem. which holds five (5) in the magazine

Figure 2

Figure 3



LONG ACTION , STANDARD CALIBERS —

One (1) in the chamber, four (4) in the magazine.

LONG ACTION, MAGNUM CALIBERS —

One (1) in the chamber, three (3) in the magazine.

Operation of the Hammer

Like most lever action rifles with exposed hammers, the Lightning BLR does not have a separate manual safety.

However, the Lightning BLR has the folding hammer feature (See Figure 2) which provides an added measure of safety when the hammer is at half-cock. The exposed hammer itself can be an excellent indicator of the safety status of the rifle.

The Lightning BLR folding hammer has four basic positions: the full-cock, the half-cock, the folded hammer position, and the dropped or fired position. An explanation of each position follows.

FULL COCK POSITION —

The hammer is all the way to the rear (See Figure 3). At this point, any pull or any force on the trigger could allow the hammer to fall and fire the rifle.

There are two ways by which the hammer can be placed in this position. First, every time the lever is cycled, the rearward movement of the bolt will cock the hammer to this position. Second, the hammer may also be manually placed at full-cock by pulling it rearward with the thumb until it engages the full-cock notch. Be sure to keep your finger off the trigger while cocking the hammer.

HALF-COCK POSITION —

This rifle's half-cock notch is simply a hammer position (See Figure 4) that may catch a hammer that slips from your thumb while cocking (providing the trigger is not depressed). It should not be taken as an assurance it will be caught ALL the time. No guarantee can be made that the half-cock notch will prevent the hammer from striking the firing pin. (Refer Safety Warning Number 2.)

MOVING FROM FULL-COCK TO HALF-COCK —

In order to move the hammer from full-cock to half-cock position, you must first place your thumb on the hammer to restrict its forward movement. The trigger is then depressed to release the hammer from the full-cock notch.

Figure 4

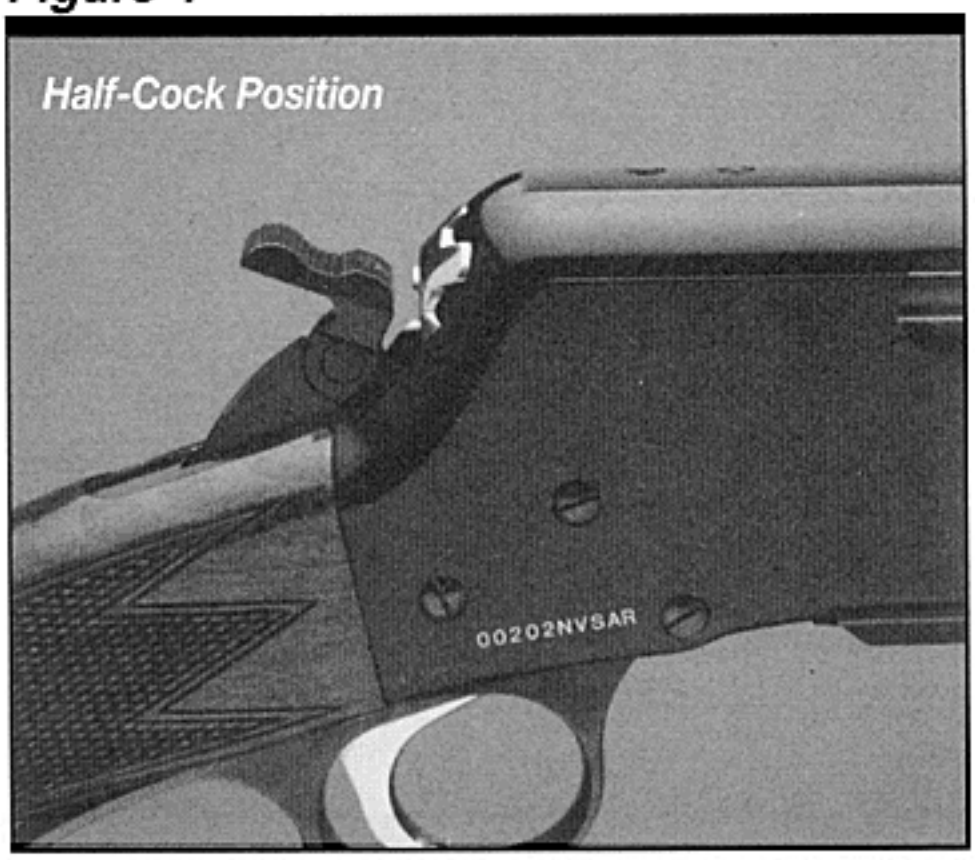
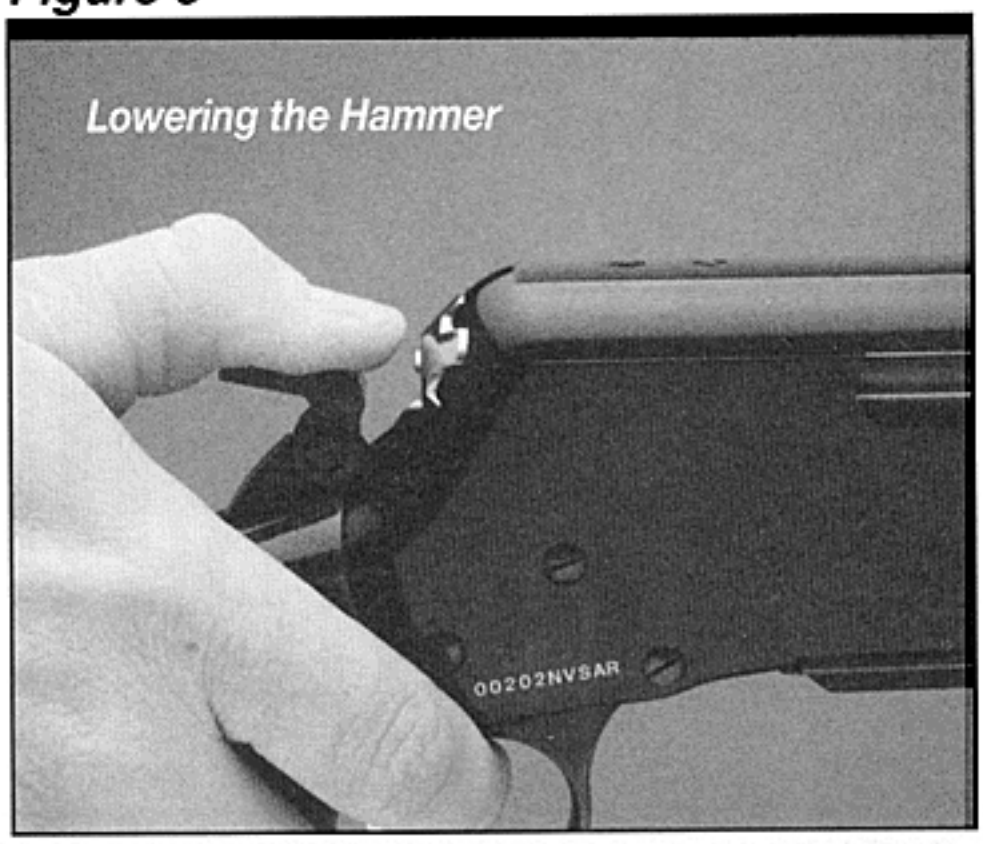


Figure 5

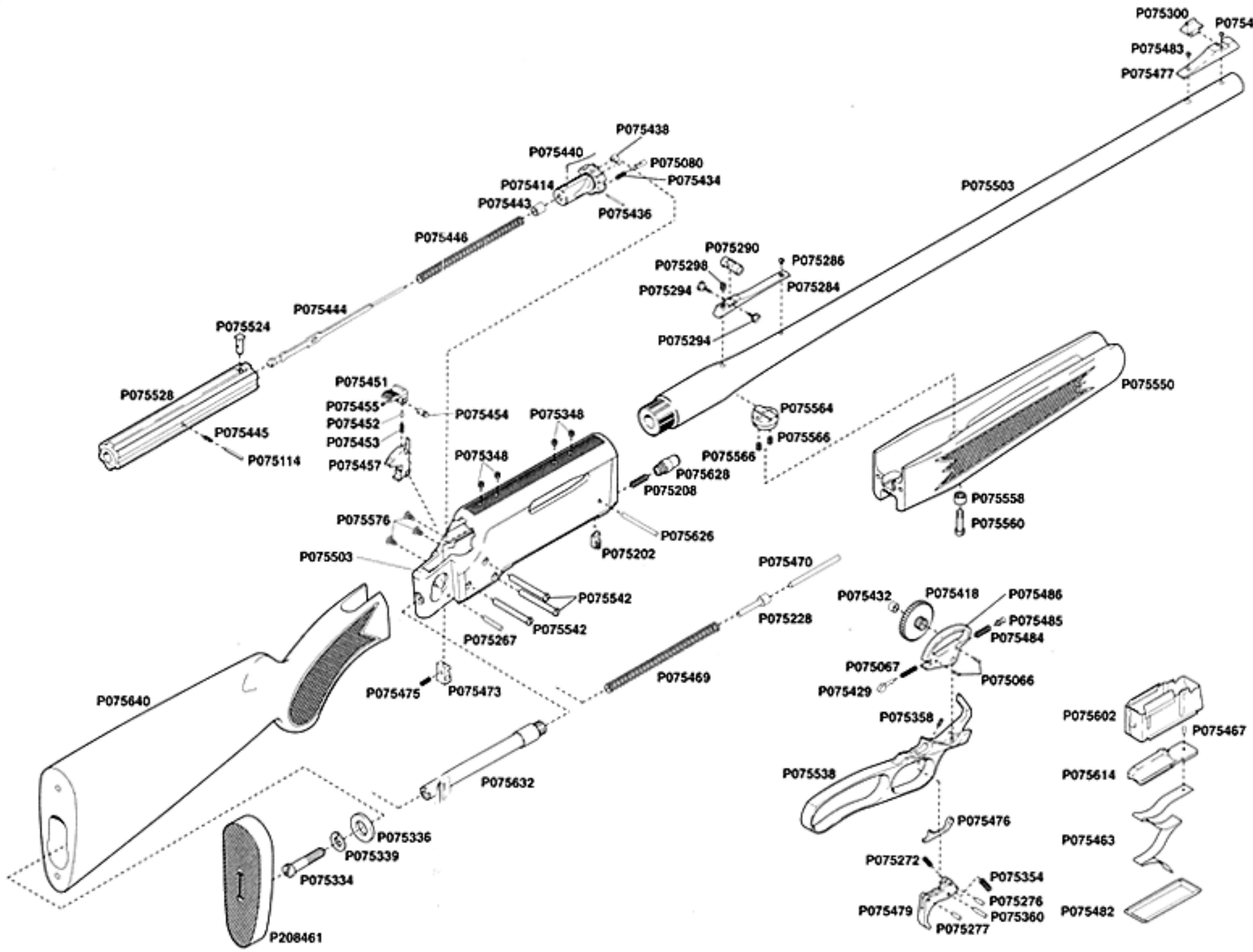


Browning Lightning BLR Long Action

Schematic is provided for parts identification only and should not be used as a guide to assemble guns.

Important: Schematic refers to Long Action model only. When ordering parts, please list the part number, the part name, the caliber, the model and the serial number located on your rifle. For the Short Action model, you must indicate the serial number in order to receive correct parts.

CAUTION: THESE BROWNING PARTS ARE MADE EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE BROWNING LIGHTNING BLR AND SHOULD NOT BE USED IN OTHER GUNS EVEN THOUGH MODELS MAY BE SIMILAR. INADEQUATELY FITTED PARTS MAY BE DANGREROUS.



Browning Lightning BLR Parts List (Long Action Model)

Parts list refers to the Long Action Lightning, folding-hammer model only. When ordering parts for the Short Action Folding-hammer model, or any previous BLR, you *must* indicate the rifle's serial number, in order to receive the correct parts. To order parts by *fax*, use our toll-free fax number: 1-800-817-4755.

Part No.	Description
PO75066	Cocking Lever Pin L.A./Cocking Lever Gear Rack Spring Plunger Pin
PO75080	Ejector
PO75114	Firing Pin Retaining Pin Inner
PO75128	Forearm Bolt
PO75130	Forearm Bolt Spacer-Inner
PO75132	Forearm Bolt Spacer-Outer
PO75125	Forearm Pin
PO75135	Forearm Tube Pin
PO75139*	Hammer Stop
PO75202	Magazine Latch Model 81
PO75208	Magazine Latch Spring
PO75228	Mainspring Guide Model 81
PO75276	Sear Link Pin
PO75272	Sear Link Spring
PO75277	Sear Link Stop Pin
PO75298	Sight Adjusting Screw Rear 1 Elevation
PO75294	Sight Adjusting Screw Rear Windage (2) Each
PO75290	Sight Aperture Rear
PO75280	Sight Assembly Rear
PO75286	Sight Base Mounting Screw Rear
PO75284	Sight Base Rear
PO75300	Sight Front
PO75312	Sling Eyelet Front (Accs. Only)
PO75314	Sling Eyelet Rear (Accs. Only)
PO75334	Stock Bolt
PO75339	Stock Bolt Lock Washer
PO75336	Stock Bolt Washer
PO75348	Telescp Mt. Filler Screw 4 ea.
PO75358*	Trigger Adjusting Screw
PO75360*	Trigger Pin
PO75354	Trigger Spring
PO75418*	Cocking Gear Assembly L.A.
PO75410*	Breech Bolt Slide L.A.
PO75412*	Bolt Lock Key Pin L.A.
PO75414*	Breech Bolt Lock Std. L.A.
PO75418*	Cocking Gear Assembly L.A.
PO75425*	Cocking Gear Pin L.A.
PO75427*	Cocking Lever L.A.
PO75429*	Cocking Lever Latch L.A.
PO75432*	Cocking Lever Stop L.A.
PO75434	Ejector Spring L.A.

Part No.	Description.
PO75436	Ejector Pin L.A.
PO75438*	Extractor L.A.
PO75440	Extractor Spring Std. L.A.
PO75443	Firing Pin Bush L.A.
PO75444*	Firing Pin L.A.
PO75445	Firing Pin Retaining Pin Outer L.A.
PO75446	Firing Pin Spring L.A.
PO75447*	Forearm Long Action
PO75448	Forearm Band Std. L.A.
PO75449	Forearm Mag. L.A.
PO75450	Forearm Tube L.A.
PO75451*	Folding Hammer L.A.
PO75452*	Folding Hammer Detent Ball L.A.
PO75453	Folding Hammer Spring L.A.
PO75454*	Folding Hammer Pin L.A.
PO75455*	Folding Hammer Set Screw L.A.
PO75457*	Hammer L.A.
PO75459	Hammer Pin L.A.
PO75461	Magazine Body L.A.
PO75462	Magazine Body Mag. L.A.
PO75463	Magazine Spring L.A.
PO75465	Magazine Follower Std. L.A.
PO75467	Magazine Follower Rivet L.A.
PO75468	Magazine Latch Pin L.A.
PO75469*	Mainspring L.A.
PO75470	Mainspring Follower L.A.
PO75472*	Mainspring Tube L.A.
PO75473*	Sear L.A.
PO75475	Sear Spring L.A.
PO75476*	Sear Link L.A.
PO75477	Sight Ramp Front L.A.
PO75478*	Stock Long Action
PO75479*	Trigger L.A.
PO75482	Magazine Bottom L.A.
PO75483	Sight Ramp Screw L.A.
PO75484*	Lever Gear Rack Spring L.A.
PO75485*	Lever Gear Rack Spring Plunger L.A.
PO75486*	Lever Gear Rack L.A.
PO75400+*	Barrel w/Receiver 270 Model 81
PO75403+*	Barrel w/Receiver 30/06 Model 81
PO75406+*	Barrel w/Receiver 7mm RM Model 81

Part No.	Description.
PO75416*	Breech Bolt Lock Mag. L.A.
PO75441	Extractor Spring Mag. L.A.
PO75449	Forearm Band Mag. L.A.
PO75456	Magazine Follower Mag. L.A.
PO75267	Sear Pin
PO75067	Cock Lever Latch Spring
PO75500	Barrel W/Receiver .270W Ltng L. A.
PO75503	Barrel W/Receiver 30-06 Ltng L. A
PO75506 A.	Barrel W/Receiver 7MMR Mag Ltng L.
PO75524	Bolt Lock Key Pin Ltng L. A.
PO75528	Breech Bolt Slide Ltng L. A.
PO75534	Cocking Gear Pin Ltng L. A.
PO75538	Cocking Lever Ltng L. A.
PO75542	Cocking Lever Pin Ltng L. A.
PO75550	Forearm Std Ltng L. A.
PO75554	Forearm Mag Ltng L. A.
PO75558	Forearm Escutcheon Ltng L. A.
PO75560	Forearm Screw Ltng Lone A.
PO75564	Forearm Stud Ltng L. Act
PO75566	Forearm Stud Screw Ltng L. A.
PO75570	Hammer Pin Ltng L. A.
PO75576	Lever Pin Screw Ltng L. A.
PO75580	Magazine Complete Ltng L. A. 270W
PO75582	Magazine Complete Ltng L. A. 30-06
PO75584 Mag	Magazine Complete Ltng A. 7MMR
PO75600	Magazine Body Ltng L. A. 270W
PO75602	Magazine Body Ltng L. A. 30-06
PO75604	Magazine Body Ltng L A. 7MMR Mag
PO75614	Magazine Follower STD Ltng L. A.
PO75620	Magazine Follower Mag Ltng L. A.
PO75626	Magazine Latch Pin Ltng L. A.
PO75628 A.	Magazine Latch Sp Ret Screw Ltng L.
PO75632	Mainspring Tube Ltng L. A.
PO75640	Stock W/Pad Ltng L. A.

** Must be fitted by qualified gunsmith or Browning Service Dept.*

+ Purchase by holders of current, valid Federal Firearms License only.

AS SOON AS INITIAL FORWARD TRAVEL OF THE HAMMER HAS MOVED PAST THE FULL-COCK POSITION, IMMEDIATELY REMOVE YOUR FINGER FROM THE TRIGGER. BE CAREFUL: IF THE TRIGGER REMAINS DEPRESSED, THE HALF-COCK NOTCH WILL NOT CATCH THE HAMMER SHOULD IT ACCIDENTALLY SLIP DURING THIS OPERATION. THE HAMMER WOULD CONTINUE PAST THE HALF-COCK POSITION TO THE DROPPED OR FIRED POSITION AND THE GUN COULD DISCHARGE.

PRACTICE LOWERING THE HAMMER —

A wise practice to follow is to place the thumb extended over the hammer with the point of the thumb just over the "V" between the hammer and the firing pin so that it can act as a cushion against accidental hammer fall, and at the same time, ease the hammer into the half-cock notch (See Figure 5). When a scope is mounted on the rifle, it is necessary to insert the point of the thumb more from the side. A little practice with an empty rifle will enable a person to become adept at using the thumb in either manner.

If a cartridge has been chambered in anticipation of an imminent shot, the hammer should be carefully lowered to the half-cock position and the folding hammer rotated forward. Remember, when a shot is no longer imminent, unload the chamber of your rifle by operating the lever downward. With the lever still in the downward position, remove the magazine from the rifle, inspect the chamber to make sure all cartridges have been removed from the rifle. Return the lever to the closed position, re-insert the magazine and return the hammer to the half cock, folded down position.

FOLDED HAMMER POSITION —

An additional feature on the Lightning BLR, the folding hammer feature (See Figure 6) further protects against accidental discharge of your firearm. This fold-down position removes the possibility of the hammer coming in contact with the firing pin if the hammer is accidentally struck.

NOTE: THE HAMMER IN THE HALF-COCK POSITION WITH THE HAMMER FOLDED FORWARD IS MERELY AN AID TO SAFE HANDLING OF YOUR RIFLE. ALWAYS HANDLE YOUR RIFLE AS THOUGH IT WERE LOADED.

ENGAGING THE FOLDING HAMMER —

In the half-cock position, the upper portion of the hammer can be rotated forward with the thumb, to position the hammer against the rear of the bolt, without coming in contact with the rear of the firing pin. This fold-down feature puts the hammer in a safer position, but this position should not be considered a safety.

DROPPED OR FIRED POSITION —

This is the position of the hammer after a round is fired. However, it is not a recommended carrying position. (See Figure 7).

Figure 6

Figure 7

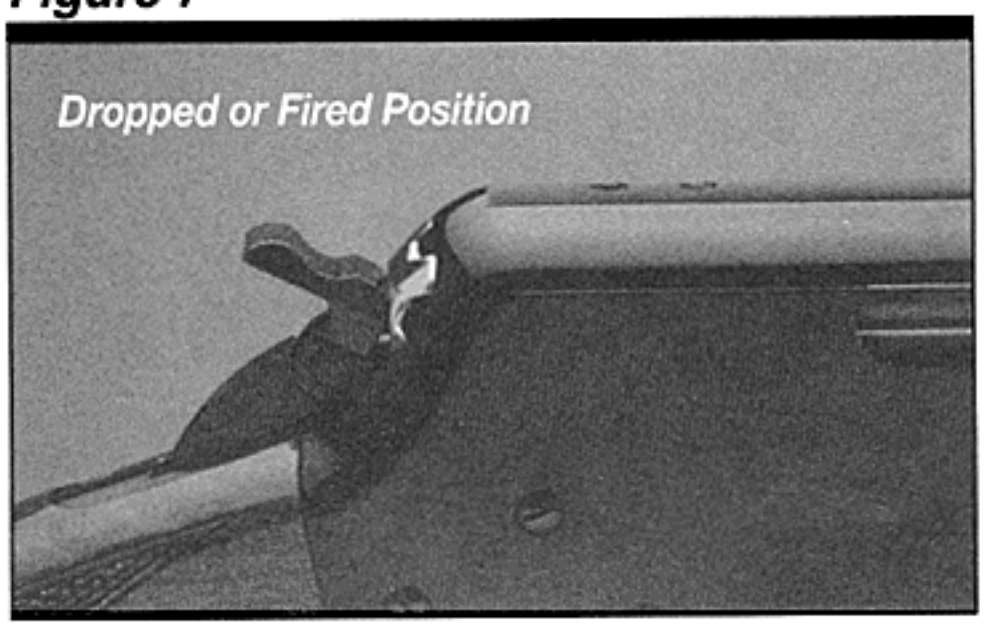
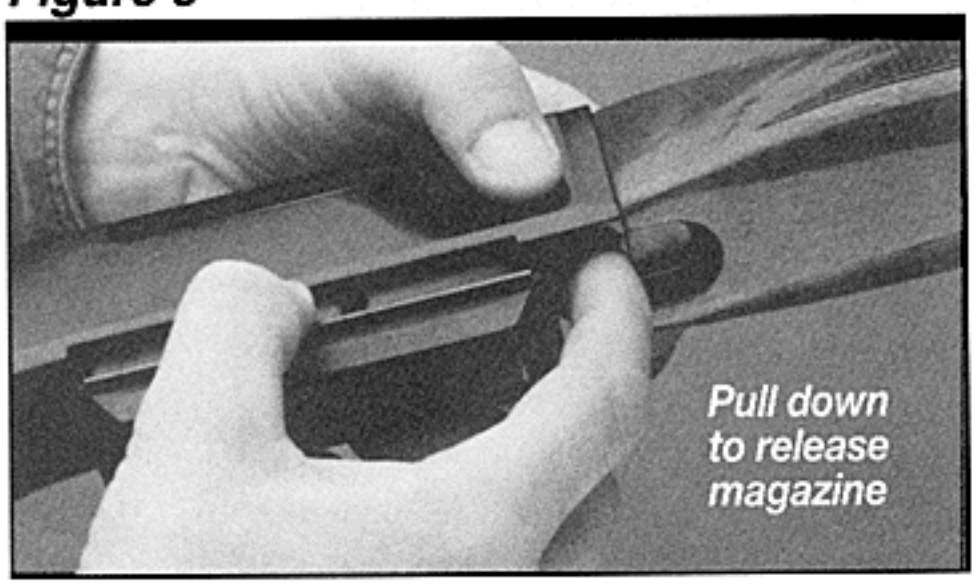


Figure 8



PREFERRED CARRYING POSITION —

For maximum safety, you should never chamber a cartridge until a shot is imminent. The half-cock position with the hammer folded forward is the recommended position of the hammer during handling and storage.

General Operating Procedures

LOADING —

THROUGHOUT THE LOADING PROCESS MAKE CERTAIN THE RIFLE IS POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION.

1 Be sure that the chamber is empty and the hammer is lowered to the half-cock position with the hammer folded forward.

2 Detach the magazine, by pulling down on the magazine release button with the index finger (see figure 8). The magazine will slide easily from its recess.

3 To load the MAGAZINE:

Cartridges are loaded by pressing them downward until they are retained by the rim of the magazine. Insert cartridges into the detachable box magazine. The correct caliber is inscribed on the right side of the barrel.

4 With the bolt closed and the hammer in the folded-down hammer position, reinsert the loaded magazine into the rifle. A sharp, metallic click will indicate that the magazine is fully inserted and engaged with the magazine latch.

5 To load a cartridge in the CHAMBER:

With the rifle pointed in a safe direction, a cartridge can be chambered by cycling the lever. Then, carefully lower the hammer to the half-cock fold-down position after chambering the cartridge. Afterwards, whenever desired, you can quickly and easily thumb back the hammer to the firing, full-cock position. At full-cock, any pull on the trigger will allow the hammer to fall and fire the rifle. For maximum safety, you should never chamber a cartridge until a shot is imminent.

UNLOADING —

1 Remove the cartridge in the chamber by operating the lever downward.

2 With the lever still in the down position, remove the magazine from the rifle.

3 The chamber should then be inspected to make sure all cartridges have been removed from the rifle.

4 Cartridges in the magazine may be removed by stripping them out with the thumb.

AMMUNITION

Carefully select your ammunition. Because your Lightning BLR uses a box style magazine and **not** a tubular magazine, pointed Spitzer-style bullets can be used.

Again, the Lightning BLR is available in many different calibers. It is important to use the correct ammunition for your particular Lightning BLR. You should check the right side of your barrel for the caliber of your model.

See section on "Loading" for magazine capacities.

LEVER ACTION FIRING:

1 With a round in the chamber, you need only to thumb the hammer rearward to its full-cock position to make the rifle ready for firing.

Otherwise, cycling the lever to place a round in the

Figure 9

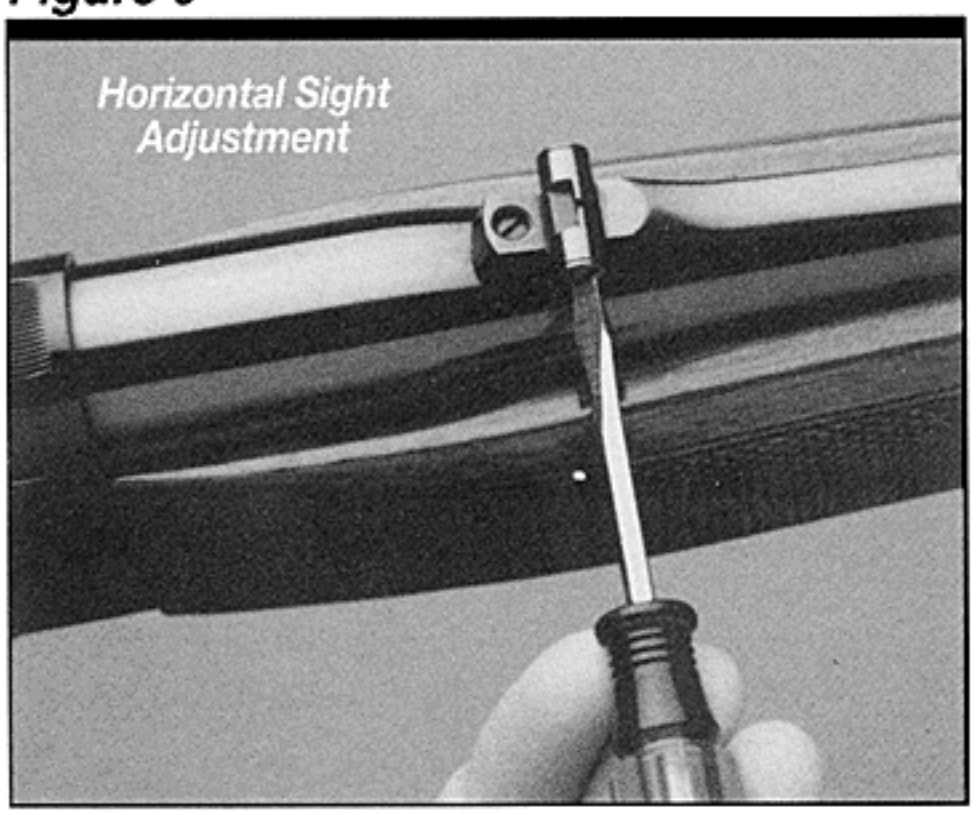
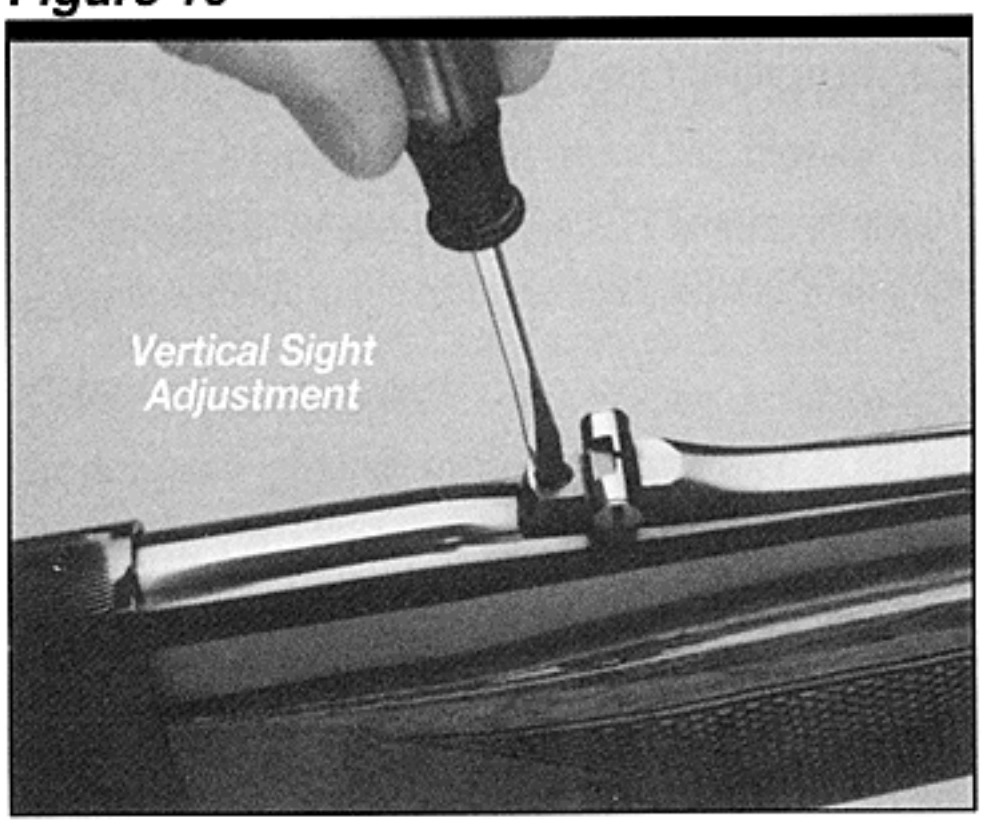


Figure 10



chamber will also leave the hammer in the full-cock (ready-to-fire) position.

2 After each shot, cycle the lever with a downward force. Lower the lever to open the bolt, extract and eject the empty cartridge case. At the bottom of the stroke, resistance will be felt as the lever raises the front end of the carrier and aligns the next round with the chamber.

Then, when you raise the lever, the bolt will pick up the next round from the magazine and push it into the chamber. Be sure you cycle the lever completely.

3 Because fired cases are ejected to the side, bystanders should not stand to the side of the shooter.

Trigger

The trigger mechanism has been adjusted at the factory to provide a short, crisp pull. It is recommended that no attempt be made to change these adjustments by anyone other than a qualified gunsmith at a local Browning Recommended Firearms Service Center or by Browning's Service Facility in Arnold, Missouri.

Note: The Lightning BLR incorporates a trigger mechanism which will not allow the trigger to be pulled until the lever is fully closed.

Sight Adjustment

HORIZONTAL:

1 To move the point of impact to the right: loosen the coin slotted screw, located on the right side of the sight by turning in a counter-clockwise direction and tighten the screw on the left side by turning in a clockwise direction (See Figure 9). This causes the rear sight to move to the right.

2 To move the point of impact to the left: simply reverse this procedure.

VERTICAL:

Vertical adjustment of the sight is controlled by the screw located on top and to the rear of the sight. To raise the point of impact, turn the screw in a clockwise direction until the sight has been raised the needed amount. (See Figure 10). To lower the point of impact, turn the screw counter-clockwise.

Cleaning Suggestions

BE CERTAIN YOUR GUN'S CHAMBER IS UNLOADED. ALWAYS WEAR PROTECTIVE SAFETY GLASSES DURING ALL ASSEMBLY, DISASSEMBLY AND CLEANING PROCEDURES. KEEP AMMUNITION AWAY FROM THE CLEANING AREA. DO NOT TEST THE FUNCTION OF YOUR FIREARM WITH LIVE AMMUNITION.

The correct procedure for cleaning your rifle is as follows:

1 Be certain the chamber and magazine are completely unloaded, the lever is down, and the ejection port is open. Again, to unload your rifle, eject any live round in the chamber by operating the lever downward. Remove the magazine and unload it by pushing forward on the base of each round until it clears the retaining rims.

2 Using a rifle cleaning rod with tip and patch large enough for a snug fit in the bore, insert rod and patch in barrel and run back and forth several times. Caution should be exercised to ensure that the cleaning rod or handle does not strike the crown of the muzzle, as damage to this area can adversely affect the accuracy of the rifle.

3 Inspect the chamber and bore for powder fouling. A normal amount of powder residue can be expected and is not serious. Residue can usually be removed by repeating step 2, using a patch saturated with nitro-solvent. If or when fouling should become heavy, it can be removed with a brass bore brush. Dip the brush in nitro-solvent and scrub the chamber and bore until the fouling is removed. To prevent brass bristles from breaking off, the brush should be pushed completely through the bore before being withdrawn.

4 To maintain the utmost accuracy of your rifle it is recommended you clean the bore with a copper solvent. Modern cartridge jackets are made mainly of copper and zinc. Residues from copper and zinc stick to the barrel and require more frequent cleaning. Swab the bore of your rifle with a good copper solvent using the manufacturer's recommended procedure.

5 After fouling has been removed, the bore should be wiped dry. Then, pass a slightly oiled patch through the bore for preservation. A fine, light gun oil like Browning Oil is recommended. Make sure there are no obstructions, cleaning patches, or other obstacles left in the bore.

6 Wipe all exposed metal surfaces with an oiled cloth, making sure to wipe gun clean of all finger marks. Finger marks should be removed because they provide a place where moisture can accumulate. Ordinary good judgement will, of course, indicate that the metal of the gun should receive a light film of oil any time the gun has been exposed to adverse weather or handling.

7 The wood surfaces of your rifle can also be wiped lightly with Browning oil, or you can apply a quality wood or furniture polish to the stock and forearm. Using one of these methods (not both), will enhance the beauty and durability of your rifle.

CLEANING THE MAGAZINE —

Depending on how often you shoot, it is helpful to disassemble the box magazine for cleaning. You may want to check your magazine for cleaning after every 50 to 100 rounds. To clean the magazine, remove the detachable box magazine from the rifle. Slide the magazine bottom plate out to the rear. The magazine spring and follower can then be easily removed for inspection. Wipe off any dirt or residue then apply a very thin coat of oil and wipe clean again. Too much oil will only serve to collect oil and dirt. To reassemble, reinsert the spring and follower, then slide the bottom plate back into position.

FURTHER DISASSEMBLY —

NEVER ATTEMPT TO TAKE YOUR LIGHTNING BLR APART FURTHER THAN EXPLAINED IN THIS MANUAL.

This is a specialized, finely fitted mechanism. You may permanently mar it by attempting to disassemble the inner mechanism assemblies. If further disassembly for service or cleaning is required, take your gun to a Browning recommended Service Center or a competent gunsmith, or send it to our Arnold, Missouri Service Facility as explained under "Service or Repair."

Service or Repair

If your firearm should require service or repairs, we suggest you first contact a local recommended Browning Firearms Service Center. Contact your Browning sporting goods dealer or call our Service Department for the address of the Service Center nearest you. Otherwise, you may send your firearm directly to our own Service Department. For technical questions about your firearm or service call our Service Department.

Browning Service Department
One Browning Place
Arnold, Missouri 63010-9406
Phone: 1-800-322-4626

Canadian Customers call or write:

Browning Canada Sports Ltd./Ltee,
5617 Chemin St-François
St-Laurent, Quebec H4S 1W6
Phone: (514) 333-7261

When returning your firearm for servicing, you *must* do the following:

a. Be sure it is completely unloaded.
b. Package it securely in a cardboard container.
c. Enclose a letter with your firearm that clearly describes the trouble experienced and the repairs or alterations desired.
d. If convenient, send a copy of the letter to us separately.
e. Never return ammunition with your firearm. It is against postal and most commerce regulations.

If you have any questions about this manual or about any other Browning products, call or write our Consumer Information Department:

Browning Consumer Information
One Browning Place
Morgan, Utah 84050-9326
Phone: (801) 876-2711